McKee Barclay Collection 1908-1920
MS28

Finding aid prepared by Kelly Peters

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

February 12, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
April, 2006
http://www.prattlibrary.org/
400 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD, 21201
443-984-2451
spc@prattlibrary.org

Table of Contents

Summary Information 3
Biographical/Historical note 4
Scrope and Contents note 4
Arrangement note 4
Administrative Information 5
Controlled Access Headings 6
Collection Inventory 8
Series I: Images-unsigned 8
Series II: Tom Bee 8
Series III: Oversized 8
Series IV: McKee Barclay 8

Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	McKee Barclay Collection
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1914-1920
Date [inclusive]	1908-1920
Extent	10.0 Linear feet 11 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The McKee Barclay Collection consist of 380 drawings by the artist, and his brother, Thomas Pollard Barclay. Both began their career as cartoonists for the Baltimore Sun. In order to distinguish his work from his brother, Thomas Pollard signed his work “Tom Bee.” The collection contains drawings in a variety of mediums, such as, pastels, ink with brush/pen, and graphite. The work of the Barclays focused on major figures of the First World War as well as domestic and foreign policy issues of the early 20th century.

Biographical/Historical note

McKee Barclay was born around Louisville, Kentucky in 1870. He began his career at the Banner in Kentucky, later joining the staff of the Paducah Standard. His first work as a cartoonist was done for the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Montgomery (Alabama) Dispatch. Barclay came to Baltimore in 1891 to do illustrative work for the Evening World and the Herald, but soon joined the staff of the Baltimore Evening News. He remained at the News until 1908 when he joined the Baltimore Sun, along with his brother, Thomas Pollard Barclay. Barclay and his brother were hired by the Sun on the same day and both were cartoonists for the newspaper. Thomas Barclay signed his work “Tom Bee” to distinguish himself from his brother. Thomas Barclay died during World War I and McKee Barclay remained at the Sun until 1920. McKee Barclay made a name for himself with his artistic representations of foreign and domestic leaders during World War I. Barclay continued to work in sales promotions and advertising until his death on April 26, 1947, of pneumonia, at the age of 77.

Scrope and Contents note

The McKee Barclay Collection includes more than 380 hand-drawn images created by both McKee and Thomas Barclay. Dr. Thomas S. Cullen donated the collection to the Enoch Pratt Free Library in 1935. The collection includes materials from Barclay’s entire career at the Baltimore Sun from 1908 to 1920, with the bulk of the collection from 1914 to 1920. The collection includes drawings in a variety of mediums: pastels, ink with brush/pen, and graphite. Most of the drawings in the collection had to be separated from cardboard backing and green construction paper. A few drawings were too fragile for such a procedure and therefore, were left on the backing. The collection is not arranged in any particular order, yet every drawing is cataloged in a Microsoft Access database, which is searchable. Many of the drawings show likenesses of major figures during the First World War, like Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Kaiser Wilhelm, Max von Baden (German chancellor), etc. The collection illustrates the issues pressing the world during the early 20th century, including domestic and foreign policy, issues surrounding World War I, political and governmental issues, etc. The collection is divided into four series with corresponding subseries: I. Images-unsigned; II. Tom Bee (contains 8 subseries); III. Oversized; and IV. McKee Barclay (contains 13 subseries). There is also a searchable database on the Special Collections “S:” drive open for browsing.

Arrangement note

Series Description:

I. Images-unsigned The first series is arranged in no particular order. For a complete description of each drawing, browse the database. Since these are small drawings, more than one drawing is placed in each folder.

II. Tom Bee-1908-191? The second series is divided into eight subseries: 1. Baltimore; 2. Politics and Government; 3. Foreign Policy; 4. WWI-Great Britain; 5. WWI-Strategy; 6. WWI-Social Issues; 7. Peace Initiatives; and 8. WWI-Liberty Loan. The first subseries include drawings specifically about issues surrounding Baltimore, Maryland. The second subseries include drawings about figures in the United States legislature and governmental process. The third subseries include drawings about relationships between countries, including the United States, pre-World War I. The fourth subseries include drawings about Great Britain during World War I. The fifth subseries include drawings about military strategy, both from the Allies and Germany, during World War I. The sixth subseries include drawings about issues affecting the people and their way of life in certain countries, including the United States, during World War I. The seventh subseries include drawings about peace talks and plans discussed to end World War I. The eighth subseries include drawings about the Liberty Loan campaigns during World War I.

III. Oversized The third series is arranged in no particular order. For a complete description of each drawing, browse the database.

IV. McKee Barclay-1908-1920 The fourth series is divided into thirteen subseries: 1. Miscellaneous Images; 2. Baltimore; 3. Domestic Policy; 4. Politics and Government; 5. Foreign Policy; 6. WWI-Great Britain; 7. WWI-Germany; 8. WWI-Social Issues; 9. WWI-Liberty Loans; 10. WWI-Strategy; 11. WWI-Allied Military; 12. WWI-Peace Initiatives; and 13. WWI-Santa Claus. The first subseries includes drawings that did not fit into any of the final subseries set aside for the collection. The second subseries includes drawings specifically about issues surrounding Baltimore, Maryland. The third subseries includes drawings about legislative and/or social policies enacted in the United States. The fourth subseries include sdrawings about figures in the United States legislature and governmental process. The fifth subseries includes drawings about relationships between countries as well as the United States, pre-World War I. The sixth subseries includes drawings about Great Britain during World War I. The seventh subseries includes drawings about Germany during World War I. The eighth subseries includes drawings about issues affecting the people and their way of life in certain countries, including the United States, during World War I. The ninth subseries includes drawings about the Liberty Loan campaigns during World War I. The tenth subseries includes drawings about military strategy, both from the Allies and Germany, during World War I. The eleventh subseries includes drawings about Allied military forces during World War I. The twelfth subseries includes drawings about peace talks and plans discussed to end World War I. The thirteenth subseries includes drawings of Santa Claus during World War I.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections April, 2006

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk September, 2015

Conditions Governing Access

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to reproduce or publish is required and may be subject to copyright, fees, and other legal restrictions imposed by parties outside of the Library.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library is not responsible for the outside use of these images but is committed to the responsible and legal use of any content held in its collections. Any questions regarding the legal nature of content on this site may be referred to spc@prattlibrary.org.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Baltimore sun.
- Liberty loans.

Genre(s)

- Caricatures and cartoons
- Cartoons
- drawings (visual works)
- Pastel drawing
- political cartoons

Occupation(s)

- cartoonists

Personal Name(s)

- Barclay, McKee
- Barclay, Thomas Pollard
- Bee, Tom
- Cullen, Thomas Stephen, 1868-1953
- Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
- Santa Claus
- Wilhelm II, German Emperor, 1859-1941

Subject(s)

- Graphite drawings--American--1900-1950.
- World War, 1914-1918

Collection Inventory

Series I: Images-unsigned	**Box** 1
Series II: Tom Bee	**Box** 2
Subseries I Baltimore	**Box** 2
Subseries II Politics and Government	**Box** 2
Subseries III Foreign Policy	**Box** 2
Subseries IV WWI-Great Britain	**Box** 2
Subseries V WWI-Strategy	**Box** 2
Subseries VI WWI-Social Issues	**Box** 2
Subseries VII WWI-Peace Initiative	**Box** 2
Subseries VIII WWI-Liberty Loan	**Box** 2
Series III: Oversized	**Box** 3
Series IV: McKee Barclay	**Box** 4-11
Subseries I Miscellaneous Images	**Box** 4
Subseries II Baltimore	**Box** 4

Subseries III Domestic Policy	**Box** 5
Subseries IV Politics and Government	**Box** 5
Subseries V Foreign Policy	**Box** 6-8
Subseries VI WWI-Great Britain	**Box** 9
Subseries VII WWI-Germany	**Box** 9
Subseries VIII WWI-Social Issues	**Box** 9
Subseries IX WWI-Liberty Loans	**Box** 10
Subseries X WWI-Strategy	**Box** 10
Subseries XI WWI-Allied Military	**Box** 11
Subseries XII WWI-Peace Initiatives	**Box** 11
Subseries XIII WWI-Santa Claus	**Box** 11